

In recognition of her work in the city of Dallas, Ms. Sampson was recently named the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Justice Award.

She is a successful practicing attorney and prominent community activist, and it is an honor to recognize DeMetris Sampson as the Woman of the Year. Through her tireless work and dedication Ms. Sampson is truly one of this Nation's greatest public servants.

GEORGIA AYERS, WOMAN OF THE YEAR FROM FLORIDA'S 17TH DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, in our celebration of Women's History Month, we have chosen to honor exceptional women in public service. I rise here tonight to honor the Woman of the Year from my congressional district, Ms. Georgia Ayers, of Miami, FL.

Over the decade I have known Georgia Ayers, she has been a living example of the ideals of community service. She has dedicated her tremendous talents and energies—her life—to benefit others. She not only believes in helping those who have less in life—regardless of their race, creed, or gender, but she lives it. She started with few advantages herself, but chose to give her life to helping others get ahead.

Her awards and honors fill pages, and are a testimony to the respect she enjoys from Dade County's diverse communities. Just a few of the groups who have honored her include: the U.S. Coast Guard, the American Cancer Society, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Dade County Public Schools, the Dade County Community Action Agency, and Miami-Dade Community College, which is the largest community college in the entire Nation.

In a world where people's words don't always match their actions, Georgia Ayers stands out as direct, honest, and committed. Her actions match her words. With Ms. Ayers, you know where she stands on an issue and exactly what she wants to do about it, and her word is her bond. Yes, honest, plain-speaking and hardworking people can still make a difference in our society. Georgia Ayers is a shining example.

Of all the projects that Georgia Ayers has been involved in, perhaps the most important has been her work with young people in trouble with the law. Programs she has developed have turned around young people's lives and helped them find and establish their places as valued members of the community. In helping these youngsters, whose voices are often not heard in our society, she reminds me of the passage from the Bible "whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to Me."

Georgia Ayers' leadership shows all of us what one dedicated woman can accomplish. In 1995, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference honored Ms. Ayers with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. She is well-deserving of this great honor, for her leadership reminds me of a paraphrase of Dr. King's remarks about the church. The role of a civic leader in our society is to be a thermostat—a changer of society, rather than a thermom-

eter, which simply measures rather than molds popular thinking.

Georgia Ayers shows that one strong woman can be that thermostat, and can change society for the better. Her life inspires and challenges us all. Like Georgia Ayers, if more of us took it upon ourselves to become thermostats instead of thermometers, I have no doubt that the temperature of human compassion and dignity on the Earth could be raised to levels beyond what we can even imagine today.

Again, I thank Georgia Ayers for her exceptional leadership and service. She is truly deserving of being honored as the Woman of the Year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLAY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 4 p.m. today and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YATES, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CRAMER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. LOWEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. TORRES, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SAWYER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. WARD, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LAZIO of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. KELLY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MILLER OF FLORIDA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, on March 22.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) and to include extraneous matter:)

Ms. DELAURO
Mrs. MALONEY.
Mr. SERRANO.
Mr. TOWNS.
Mr. TORRES in two instances.
Mr. KANJORSKI.
Mr. VENTO.
Mr. FAZIO.
Mr. CRAMER.
Mr. MENENDEZ.
Mr. MORAN.
Mr. EVANS.
Mr. HALL of Ohio.
Mr. GEPHARDT.
Mr. SABO.
Mr. STARK.
Mr. ACKERMAN.
Ms. WATERS.
Mr. SCHUMER.
Mr. HAMILTON.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MILLER of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
Mrs. KELLY.
Mr. HAMILTON.
Mr. REED.
Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.
Mr. CASTLE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LAZIO) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. WALKER.
Mrs. ROUKEMA in two instances.
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.
Mr. HUNTER.
Mr. CRANE.
Mr. GILMAN.
Mr. LIVINGSTON.
Mr. LAZIO.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 956. An act to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1787. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement.